

into the connector during a card insertion operation, to be locked by the locking mechanism, and to move in a card eject direction by an elastic recovery force of the spring member in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece, accommodated in a space formed in the eject member, having a locking portion to engage a single side of the card in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed to the eject member; and

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a locking piece guide means, formed in the connector housing, for guiding the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation and the card insertion operation wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become elastically deformed during the card eject operation to move the locking portion away from the recess of the card and wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become released from the elastic deformation during the card insertion operation thereby causing the elastic locking piece to move toward the card by an elastic recovery force to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are now pending, with claims 2-8 dependent, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8. Further, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new independent claim 9, which includes an additional limitation not found in U.S. Patent No. 5,051,101 to Komatsu.

I. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 is directed to a card connector including an "elastic locking piece" that is caused by a locking piece